

Office of Homeland Security
Proposition 1B Q&A

Grantee Questions

1. Can an agency submit a project based on future Proposition 1B allocations?

OHS will accept projects that plan for the use of future allocations of Proposition 1B funding. However, OHS cannot guarantee the amount of year to year allocations as that is a legislative prerogative.

2. Can agencies combine funds to complete regional projects?

Yes

3. Are the unexpended funds going to be available for usage by other grantees?

No. OHS does not have the authority to redirect allocations to other agencies.

4. Are service contracts and training part of eligible equipment expenses?

Yes, service contracts cannot extend past the performance period. Training on equipment will be considered on a case by case basis.

5. What is the useful life?

California Government Code: 16727.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate?WAISdocID=1883777937+0+0+0&WAISection=retrieve>

6. How far back can the grantee, use funds for previous project expenditures?

Project expenses can only accrue after the agency has received the award letter.

7. Are projects going to be accepted on a continuous basis?

Yes, until the due date.

8. Can grantees submit phased projects?

Yes, grantees can submit phased projects. (See #1 above)

9. Who should be designated as the authorized agent?

The agency is responsible for selecting their authorized agent. The authorized agent selected by the agency will have authority to sign.

10. Is there going to be a Governing Body Resolution? Can the grantee use a current Governing Body Resolution?

Yes, each agency will generate their resolution which must follow the template provided in the CTAF guidance. Each grant year will require a new governing body resolution.

11. What is the purpose of the Investment Justification?

The IJ process is used by OHS to evaluate a proposed project. This evaluation fulfills our statutory responsibility and focuses on two primary issues. First, does the submitted project have a funding plan that demonstrates that the funds are expected to be reasonably available and sufficient to complete the project? Second, do the benefits associated with each individual segment sufficiently meet the objectives of the program.

12. Is there going to be a notification that the Investment Justifications has been received? In, addition, is there going to be a letter sent by OHS for the project approval?

An additional award letter will be sent to the grantee after the project has been reviewed and approved.

13. Can grantees use other sources of grant funding to supplement approved projects?

Yes

14. Are grantees allowed to use the interest and left over monies from unexpended Proposition 1B funds?

CTAF funds must be kept in a separate interest bearing account. Any interest that is accrued must be used towards the project. Please contact your program representative about using the interest and unused Prop 1B monies.

15. Can the grantee submit a cost over run for the next Fiscal Year?

California Government Code: 8879.50 (f)

If it is anticipated that project costs will exceed the approved project budget, the recipient agency shall provide a plan to the administrative agency for achieving the benefits of the project by either down scoping the project to remain within budget or by identifying an alternative funding source to meet the cost increase. The OHS may either approve the corrective plan or direct the recipient agency to modify its plan.

16. Is there going to be matching within the FY07/08 CTAF funds?

No

17. Can the Prop. 1B. fund match the federal funds?

Yes

18. Can an Agency use Prop 1B funds to purchase software?

Yes, if the software will help achieve the goals listed in the CTAF guidance.

19. Can an agency named in Prop. 1B give their Prop 1B funds to another agency, such as a local police or fire department.

No, Proposition 1B funds can only be used by the eligible agency.

20. What happens to unexpended funds after three years?

California Government Code: 8879.61(a)

The Grantee shall expend those funds within three fiscal years of the fiscal year in which the funds were allocated. Funds remaining unexpended thereafter shall revert to OHS or OES, as applicable, for reallocation in subsequent fiscal years.

21. What is interoperable communication equipment?

Interoperability generally refers to the ability of public safety emergency responders to work seamlessly with other systems or products without any special effort. Wireless communications interoperability specifically refers to the ability of public safety officials to share information via voice and data signals on demand, in real time, when needed and as authorized. For example, when communications systems are interoperable, police and firefighters responding to a routine incident can talk to each other to coordinate efforts. Communications interoperability also makes it possible for public safety agencies responding to catastrophic accidents or disasters to work effectively together. Finally, it allows public safety personnel to maximize resources in planning for major predictable events such as the Super Bowl, or an inauguration, or for disaster relief and recovery efforts. As defined by the Department of Homeland Security's SAFECO Program. See <http://www.safecomeprogram.gov/SAFCOM/interoperability/default.htm>

22. Can a single interest bearing account be used for multiple fiscal years of Prop 1B allocations?

Yes, a single interest bearing account can be used for multiple fiscal years of Prop 1B funds. The grantee must be able to track the funding years and accrued interest separately.